

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1927

LOCAL SUNDAY BLUE LAWS
Let us state right here that The Eccentric has no argument regarding the sincerity of the law which is being sought to make Birmingham a "Blue Law" for this village, at present in the Charter Amendment passed Sunday motion picture shows which will be balloted upon next Monday. Those who are supporting several of the Birmingham ministers in their attempts to keep Sunday motion picture shows out of Birmingham are doing so because they feel that it is for the best interests of the village, no doubt.

But we are going to vote against this specific proposed Charter Amendment just the same. Why? Here are several reasons:
First: We believe in the United States Constitution and its provision against the enactment of discriminatory legislation. If Birmingham wants to prevent the commercialization of its Sunday why does it not seek to close every avenue of profit which now remains open on the Sabbath Day? We are against the proposed ordinance because it is directed against a certain kind of business only; it is discriminatory, and therefore, unconstitutional and un-American.

Second: If Birmingham believes that it can tolerate a motion picture theater six days each week, then Birmingham must believe that the kind of pictures or drama that such a theater will offer is fit for its men and women, boys and girls. If decent and wholesome motion pictures are shown in Birmingham six days each week, then why should it be against any agency that is shifting—even though it be the movies? Therefore, by admitting their willingness to tolerate six days a week, how can they say that such entertainment is filled with salacious, filth and indecency on the seventh.

Third: As a citizen of Birmingham, we are the paternal parent of three children and we have a bond with all parenthood in the world. We believe that these children are entitled to the best fit decency, uplift, and education that we are able to give them. We know that these children, as they grow older, will seek some of their enjoyment and entertainment outside of their home, away from their parents. Perhaps they will want to go to the movies. To be sure, it may not be on a Sunday—unless they really demand it. And right here is our point: if they are intent upon going to a movie, we would rather have such a movie as NEAR AS POSSIBLE TO THEIR HOME! We'd rather have a thing that is necessary to them, even though it contain some evil—as NEAR AS POSSIBLE TO THE HOME THAT IS THREATENED, SO THAT SUCH NECESSITY MAY BE WATCHED, and its current substance KNOWN! In other words, if your boy or girl who are now seven and five, respectively, ever express a demand to desire to smoke when they get older, you may rest assured that we will provide them with tobacco right in our own home—we won't drive them to some outside, unknown source of supply, over the route to which may be found hundreds of dirty, discarded butts and stumps of cigars and cigarettes, and the detritus of a bustling community! You will agree that such a much of Birmingham's present population gets the movies each week; some of them go during the week, and you'd be surprised, no doubt, to learn of the number who go Sundays as well. You will agree, too, that most of our youth is attracted by motion picture shows; do we want to provide them with such entertainment right at home?—or do we want them to travel over miles of lonely pavement on their ways to, to, to, well, perhaps some, movie, show, in another town? Who can always tell?

"To go or not to go. . . ." "To be or not to be. . ." these are the burning questions for Birmingham citizens to decide when they vote on this discriminatory ordinance next Monday. One might try to converse endlessly or hear specific reasons why he will oppose or approve such an ordinance for Birmingham. It is not our purpose here to enter into any religious controversy on the question. We have simply given a few reasons why we shall vote against the proposed ordinance. We could name many others, but we cannot do so.

Our mind is made up, as no doubt are the minds of most of Birmingham's electors. If the ordinance is defeated, they will have Sunday movies by the largest exhibitor of motion pictures in Michigan, and we'll have a theater that will reflect the progress of Birmingham. If the ordinance wins at the polls next Monday, we'll have a motion picture show which is not our purpose here to enter into any religious controversy on the question. We have simply given a few reasons why we shall vote against the proposed ordinance. We could name many others, but we cannot do so.

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entertainment and education; turning as our individual conscience dictate, just as we turn to our chosen religions on the Lord's Day. (—G. R. A.)

ENLARGING OUR COMMISSION

For the past year and a half Birmingham citizens have evidenced an ever increasing discontent with the manner in which their municipal affairs have been administered; even a casual analysis of the reasons for this discontent will reveal the trouble to be an altogether too small number of village commissioners to take care of the situation. It is brought about an almost mushroom growth of municipal problems in a short time due to Birmingham's phenomenal growth in the past two years. All over the village was heard the cry: "We need more men to take care of our village affairs. Three commissioners are entirely too small a number to handle the situation properly."

Indeed, it was expected too much of any three men to cope with the constantly increasing number of Birmingham's municipal problems. Some way must be found to provide for a larger village commission. The question arose: how many commissioners should Birmingham have, five or seven? After a good deal of discussion it was agreed among a group of local citizens, including the writer, that since Birmingham seemed to want an increased village commission, seven members would be better. From this decision came when it was argued that, with five commissioners, only three were needed to be in accord on any local question to carry it, adding but one more to the present necessary two ascending village commission votes. With seven commissioners, five would be necessary for agreement on any question, thus doubling the present requirements. Then, too, with seven commissioners, five of whom would vote regularly, the president voting only in case of a tie, the many problems attending Birmingham's rapid progress could be divided among the commissioners, thus assuring for a better understanding of village problems and subsequent remedies, to the eventual betterment of municipal conditions in our community.

Therefore, next Monday, March 13, among the various propositions which you will be asked to vote upon is that of increasing the present village commission to seven members. If this charter amendment carries, within sixty days thereafter four more candidates for the village commission will be voted into office. The Eccentric believes that Birmingham needs more than three persons on the local village commission; it believes that the interests of the taxpayers of Birmingham can be served better at this time in its history by seven commissioners than five.

We ask you, as citizens of Birmingham who are interested in its safe and sane progress, to approve the charter amendment for increasing the village commission to seven.

TWO CANDIDATES

Mr. H. T. Ellerby, candidate for the office of village president, and Mrs. Hazel E. Lawler, candidate for reelection for village clerk, have proved themselves to be the calibre that Birmingham needs in her public offices. Mr. Ellerby presents the qualifications of an experienced business executive with new ideas, as indicated by his attitude toward the charter amendment advocating a seven-man commission. For seven years he has been the Detroit manager of one of the largest of eastern insurance companies with which he has been associated for more than sixteen years, ever since he gave up the practice of law in 1910. His work is that of employing and developing a large business organization outside of their home, away from their parents. Birmingham in the administration of village affairs. He has not previously interested himself in village politics, has no pre-conceived ideas as to village policies, is not associated with any special group of political faction and seems to offer a practical, business-like administration.

That rare thing known as personality can not be taken often as a qualification for a nominee to public office. However, Birmingham citizens are of the type that requires polite treatment and an understanding of their wants. This ability, we are sure, Mr. Ellerby possesses. In the six years that Mrs. Lawler has served Birmingham as clerk more progress has been made than at any time in the history of the village. Naturally the work that has fallen to the clerk in these years has increased at an almost break-neck pace. Mrs. Lawler has always been found competent. She has kept ahead of her work.

With the coming of an entire new commission and a new manager it is especially necessary to have someone in office who is familiar with the great quantity of unfinished work of the village so that there will be no noticeable break in its progress. We believe it a fortunate thing for Birmingham that Mrs. Lawler and Mr. Ellerby are candidates.

BIRMINGHAM IS ANXIOUS

Residents of Birmingham today are anxiously awaiting the decision of Judge Frank L. Convent next Monday on the petition for an injunction restraining the state from completing a 100-foot Woodward avenue through Birmingham. During this hearing, a Detroit real estate man, with his attorneys, will tell the court that property owners on Woodward avenue believe the state has erred in deciding to parallel streets for Birmingham rather than the one wide Woodward avenue. The man who started the suit has said he believes he is doing the village a service in taking this action.

When an outsider enters a community with so much eclat and immediately tips over the scales, as it were, the residents of that community naturally feel some concern. They feel in this case, that it would be a wise thing, indeed, if they had consulted before the action were taken. They would just as soon as they themselves have not protested the action of the state in attempting to make Woodward avenue a thoroughfare over which one may ride, someone starts a suit which may eventuate in the work being suspended indefinitely. Citizens are unable to see a great deal of logic in the suit. They are in the habit of accepting gifts, when rightly offered, and when timely,

WHITE ROSES

I heard some roses talking from a little gilded vase. They were in a sunny window of a happy place. Said one, "To me belonged the first glad happy bridal year. I knew only joy and sunshine, not a sorrow or a tear."

"I brought a little baby," spoke the next, "a darling boy." "But the angels came and took him. Grief and sorrow dimmed my joy." Said the third, "My year brought illness. Weary were my days and long. Though I kept the love light burning with gay laughter and a song."

"A second baby boy was mine, a treasure to behold." "And mine, a happy laughing girl with curls of shining gold." 'Twas thus they talked about the joys and sorrows that had known— To each belonged a precious year that speedily had flown.

The fair boy's wedding I beheld, the girl to college sent. The last one said, "Mrs. and silver locks I brought, ere I was spent." A bunch of lovely roses, just as sweet and pure and white. As those the bride carried on her happy wedding night.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago
Bits of News gleaned from Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

25 YEARS AGO
The last one said, "Mrs. and silver locks I brought, ere I was spent." A bunch of lovely roses, just as sweet and pure and white. As those the bride carried on her happy wedding night.

The appreciative capacity of the West was really a long time ago. It was a poor performing animal. The place formerly known as the Western Hotel property at Birmingham Center is now a well known business. For particulars of the premises, or the office, or address Henry Weston, Pontiac, Mich.

Here's an item from the New York correspondence of the Standard News: "Frank Park left on Monday for Birmingham. He bought a pair of low shoes and had to go to a warmer climate to wear them. We shall miss the jumbo."—Curly is here O. K.

The boys of Troy are proud of the Joseph Bayley farm, which business men of Birmingham are doing an immense dairy business all by the deep can process.

Regular meeting of the Village Commission called to order by President Sherry Monday evening, March 7, 1927, at 8 o'clock. Present: President Sherry, Commissioners Ladd and Bell. 151-Moved by President Sherry that a notice of such meeting be published in the Eccentric. 152-Moved by President Sherry that a bill of T. D. Roy for labor amounting to \$44.00 be allowed as read. 153-Moved by President Sherry that a notice of such meeting be published in the Eccentric. 154-Moved by President Sherry that a bill of T. D. Roy for labor amounting to \$44.00 be allowed as read. 155-Moved by President Sherry that a notice of such meeting be published in the Eccentric.

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